

Commission to Evaluate the Effectiveness and Future of the Premium

Assistance Program

(RSA 126-A:5e, HB 1696 Ch. 13:12, Laws of 2016)

Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2017

Senator Bradley called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Members Present: Sen. Jeb Bradley, Sen Dan Feltie, Rep. Cindy Rosenwald, Rep. Stephen Schmidt, Rep. Karen Umberger, Richard Cornell, Travis Tasker, Peter Burwen, Jenny Patterson, Jeffery Myers, Lisa Guertin and Mike Rose.

Tyler Brannon Insurance Department, Health Care Policy Analyst provided a briefing covering the role of the NH Insurance Department, NH Insurance Markets, Impact of the 2014 ACA changes and Premiums. The ACA established the same criteria for all states. It was requested that the Insurance Department send a link to the Committee on out of pocket costs for each metal level.

Lisabritt Solsky provided an overview of the Well Sense Health Plan. Well Sense is not involved with the ACA, but does provide Medicare Care Management (MCM) services for standard Medicare. The Committee request that Well Sense provide the actual numbers for the chart titled A Snapshot of Well Sense' s Medically Frail members use of SUD services and the number of people in the Bridge Program who required services.

Public Health Advocates provided testimony from several people who were receiving services. Carrie Duran, a Medicaid recipient. Travis Morin provided a letter from Ellie Smith who requested the legislators to realize the effectiveness of the Medicaid Expansion Program. Michelle Merritt (New Futures) provided information on what they are doing and will provide written testimony to the Committee. She indicated 11,000 people have sought out substance abuse treatment. 107,000 have been enrolled at various times and now there are approximately 50,000 people enrolled in the program. There was an initial problem going from MCO's to the premium assistance program, but most of the kinks have been worked out. Courtney Gray from the NH Provides association indicated the substance abuse program was very successful. John Iudice, Addiction Recovery Services remarked about the importance of the expanded services provided to those dealing with addiction as the NH Health Protection Program provided expanded services.

Sue Ellen Griffin, NH Community Behavioral Health Association provided written testimony. She provided a chart showing unduplicated clients for both the Premium Assistance Program and the NH Health Protection Program.

Kristine Stoddard, Bi-state Primary Care Association provided written testimony. One key area of discussion was the steep reduction in the number of uninsured clients that are now using the Community Health Centers. There has also been an increase in the number of clients which indicates more patients are accessing necessary primary and preventive care. She indicated there was a problem with auto assignment of non-English speakers as well as co-pays for those enrolled in the Premium Assistance Program have gone up, but it does not seem to be a problem. They have also seen a growth in Substance Use Treatment.

Greg White, Lamprey Health Care, provided written testimony describing their services and the number of clients and the percentage enrolled in commercial insurance, Medicaid, Medicare and uninsured. He indicated if the Health Protection Program and the Premium Assistance Program stopped they would not be able to continue to provide the same level of service.

Jill Shaeffer Hammond a member of the public spoke about her son and problems in health insurance coverage from the ACA to insurance provided by his employer.

Representative Kenneth Vincent spoke as a member of the public and discussed the addiction recovery services and the effects of treatment.

This concluded the testimony from various organizations.

Senator Bradley expressed an interest in trying to obtain the economic impact as to where we are saving money and has there been a reduction in uncompensated care.

The next meeting will be held on February 13, 2017 at 1:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Rep. Karen C. Umberger, Clerk